



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#6A
A22vns
1/7/03

Serial No: 09/846,565 Group Art Unit: 3738
Filed: 04/27/2001
Applicant: R. Edward Winters
For: Low Profile Expandable Hoop Support Device for Flexible Tubes

Response to Office Action

December 11, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

JAN 02 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 15, 2002, please amend the above-identified application Abstract and Claims in accordance with the marked up copy and clean copy of each provided herewith.

Remarks

The Office Action cited above has been given careful consideration. Applicant responds as follows:

Referring to Item 2, an application data sheet stating the applicant's post office address is submitted herewith.

Referring to Item 3, an amended abstract in compliance is submitted herewith.

Referring to Item 4, there is no reference numeral (4) in applicant's copy of Fig. 1. There is, however, a reference numeral (14) at both ends of coil (12). An additional copy of Fig. 1 is submitted herewith showing the same.

Referring to Items 6-11 regarding claim rejections under 35USC112, applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are overcome by the amended claims submitted herewith. In particular, the nomenclature of the tube into which the hoop is inserted, the flexible tube of which a coronary artery is one type, is distinguished from the delivery tube which, in one embodiment, surrounds the hoop and fits inside the flexible tube.